

a deed in favour of the hospital of the abbey: the wording has the true ring and the proud periods of sovereignty about it, and implies that the King of Sicily, Capua, and Apulia has superseded the Emperor as suzerain of Monte Cassino.<sup>1</sup> The learning and piety of Monte Cassino were well worthy of its riches and its fame. Its library was already one of the greatest in all the West, and the literary traditions of the abbey were ancient and worthily sustained from the days of Paul the Deacon onwards. After the troubles which culminated in the Norman conquest there was a veritable renaissance under Desiderius, abbot from 1057 to 1087, One of the noblest personalities of the eleventh century in Italy, Desiderius was a son or near kinsman of Landulf V, of Benevento. A Lombard patriot and superior of an abbey whose traditions were all Lombard, lie was on terms of almost paternal affection with Richard of Capua. During his rule Leo of Ostia was labouring faithfully in the abbey archives, The history of the Norman conquest was completed by Amatus of Salerno in the scholarly refuge of the abbey and dedicated to Desiderius in touching and affectionate words: "I wish to die in

the reign  
of that holy abbot and pray that he  
may survive  
me so that on the last day of my life he  
may give  
me absolution of my sins,"

\* Tosti, *op. cit.*, vol. II, p. 193. It  
speaks of the abbot as  
*fratris nostri*. In 1190, the abbot of  
Monte Cassino does homage  
to King Tancred among the barons of  
the Campania,